

Interview with Gwendolyn Ayer Jones

Interviewed by a Nestucca Valley Middle School Student

April 15, 2004

(Note that Gwen Jones was a walking history book of South Tillamook County history, particularly the history of the Blaine Road area. And I appreciate so much that she was very willing to share that history with me and with others. Many times she shared important stories, clarified historical questions and offered help. She had a great interest in preserving our local history. She also shared a number of photos and allowed me and allowed Nestucca Valley Middle School students to scan those photos.

Many of the photos are up on the <http://www.southillamookcounty.com> website, and there are many more that are waiting to be loaded onto the website. Dean Bones)

Gwen: Gwendolyn Ayer Jones (stating name), and I was born... let's see.. I was born on August 15th, 19... 'er, August 17th, 1915 in Tillamook, Oregon.

Student: *And today's date?*

Gwen: Today's... this... what day is it?

Student: *This is April 15...*

Gwen: April 15, 2004. Ohhh.... tell about the history of family.... well, how far back do you want to go to? My dad was... start with him, I guess... my dad was born in Vermont in 1852, on June 22nd... yeah, June 22nd, 1852... I'm pretty sure that's right, and he came to... his mother died when he was three years old and his father brought he and his brother, who was... oh, what in the world was he? Anyway, they came to Colorado, and I'm not sure what town there, and lived there until my dad was about 18, and they came to Oregon... I don't know how or what, but they didn't leave word with their family in Vermont where they came from, and so we didn't know anything about them until he passed away in 1937.

And my mother was born in... well, her parents came from Kansas to... out of Spokane, and I can't think of the... little town... and she was born up there, and they came to Hebo from there in a covered wagon. And they stayed at Hebo for a week and then came on up and settled on the... what was called Walker's Prairie on the Blaine Road out of Beaver, and that was in 1890. My mother was five years old at that time... and they settled on that farm and... there was two other families that came with them, and they were the... huh... Bays... and that's what Bay's Creek is named from... yeah, from their family... and, uh... oh, golly... I've got that written on a piece of paper down there in my purse... and the other family was Curls, and they moved up Moon Creek. Moon Creek was named from a different family that came later, and they were the... whatever... Moons, anyway... their last name was Moon, and so that creek was named and that's been that ever since. Let's see... We lived on this place, was called Walker's Prairie, that we moved to, and the man that owned it at that time had homesteaded it, evidently. He's buried on the... I guess everybody knew it... by Quentin Borba's ranch... it's on the hill above there. And my grandfather was William Smith... he... and my grandmother was Nancy Narcissus Smith, and one of my sisters is named for her. There was five children in their family when they came. And they stayed at Hebo for a week... oh, I said that, didn't I?

When my grandfather and his family... there were five children in their family, and they came.. started out... they had a wheat farm up there... I was fortunate to get to go and visit that place last summer, but when I got there, we went to the cemetery because I knew that two babies had died and

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was buried somewhere up there, but that cemetery wasn't started until two years after they'd left there (chuckling)... so I didn't find out anything there. But, uh... anyway, they came on up here, and he built a... my grandfather... William Smith... did I tell his name? And he built a sawmill down by the... below the grange hall... toward the... on the river... and they built houses from lumber from that... the Curls and the Bays, and the first school house. And it was built up on the hill above Blaine... just before you get to Blaine. And my mother went to school up there, for what little she got to go to school from there... it was quite a ways in that time (chuckling)... and, uh... let's see...

Anyway... Grandfather Smith named Blaine and he was... people always want to know why he named it Blaine... but, uh... James G. Blaine was a senator in Maine at that time and was running for president, and he admired him and so he asked to name it Blaine and they got to... and then he had the first post office, and they had it in their home... and my aunt, Fannie Smith, took care of the post office while they had it there, and many times after that, the post office was moved from house to house, and I do have a list someplace that tells all the postmasters that had been there... in 1918 we moved to... we moved from... well, before then... it was... must have been... I'm not sure of dates... but we moved to this place which was on Walker's Prairie on part of my grandfather's place... and they had been a old house built for the cheesemaker down on the river, and my father moved it up and that's what we lived in until we moved up to Blaine in this three-story building that was built by, uh... oh... Wilmott... he had built a little building up Moon Creek and had the... oh, feed and a few groceries and stuff there, but they didn't have... they had the post office in the house on that place, and that... I can't think of her name right now... she was the postmaster... but it moved around in the... the post office moved around in the community... several times before it settled in that store... uh, building that... and that was a three-story building on the... the first floor was the store, and they had the post office in there... it's the first time it was in a settled place...

And it was a couple years, I think, before we moved up there, but my dad became the post master, then, in that place, and was until he died in 1937... but in 1924 he built his own building over across on the other... on the Nestucca River Road at the end of the bridge there, and the post office was there, and in our family my mom was the last one post office... 'er... post master when it was closed, and I think that was about '55... I've got the date someplace, but... but anyway, this three-story building... the living quarters were in the upper... the third floor... there was no third floor... I mean, the bottom wasn't a floor... it was just a opening under the building, and more for storage... but upstairs... it was a well arranged home, and I always thought I'd have a home built like that... (chuckling)... but, uh... there was three bedrooms, and I had two sisters born there, and then, uh...

Then they built the school in 19 and 20... grade school was right across the road on a little raised part, and that was the year I started to school, so I kinda' aged by the schools... (chuckle)...

I had three sisters... two when we moved up there, and, uh... the older... we had both been born in Tillamook, but then we had another sister and her name was... they named her Fannie Narcissa... but when she got older, she didn't like that name of Fannie, so she changed it to Frances, and her name now is Frances Wolford, and she lives in Portland... but the older sister passed away... when... about five years ago...

Voice: *Alma?*

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Gwen: Alma... and she was Alma Spidell, and they lived here in the community for many year... and her husband was Jack Spidell, and they had two boys that were Kenneth and Gary... and my other sister didn't have any children, and then there was a younger sister that was born when we lived there... she lived to be six years old, and in 1929 she died of diphtheria and was buried in the Blaine Cemetery.

Student: *And what was her name?*

Gwen: Wylda. W Y L D A . Wylda Ayer... A Y E R .

One thing that I don't really remember when we lived on the farm, before we moved to Blaine, was a... was a kinda' story told about me... when I was three years old and we had moved from Tillamook, and my mom picked wild strawberries to can... if you can imagine that... but, out on the back of our place she picked... she was doin' that one day and my dad was resting in the house while Alma and I were there, and I decided that I wasn't gonna' stay in the house... I went up to the neighbors, which was clear up past the grange hall... where Melvin Fitch lives now... that was quite a ways for a three year old, but anyway, the man that lived... was, uh... Welch... what in the heck was his name? Anyway, Welch lived there, and he saw me and he brought me home. And I don't remember anything that happened to me (laughing) but that's the story that's been told a long time. I don't really remember much about living there, anyway. I don't think we lived there very long before I...

I remember when we lived in the third-story building, that my dad came up from the post office one morning and he had a flag and he said that the war was over, and I know that was in 1918, so I remember that thing... and then, the stairs on that building, to go upstairs... it was on the outside of the building... covered over stairway, but you went right up and didn't have to go in the store building, and uh, so that was always quite an excursion... uh... and it was... there was a really big front porch with a railing on it, and one time that I remember really good... Warren Johnson... and I'm not sure it was Warren... it could have been Oscar... but, anyway, they came to the store and we were out on the porch and he climbed one of the posts right up to the railing to... and I don't really know why I remember that, but something stood out... we had a lot of neighbors around... the kids played outside at night, and the school was right across the road...

Well, let's see... I don't know... we didn't... we played with the neighbor kids... Kostics, and... umm... names are gettin' away from me... Hollets lived right in the house where Bill Slavens lives now, and they were close friends. At school they played, uh... Auntie Over and Run, Sheep, Run and stuff like that... when I... only place I remember that we traveled while I was in... I guess it was in grade school, it might have been in high school... we went to California one year... Tient, California... my mom's sister lived there, and my dad's brother lived.... in another place, I can't remember. But that's about the only place I remember really traveling away... I can't remember even going to Tillamook and stuff like that, which I know we did... and I have a picture of the first car that came over the Nestucca River Road. There was a lot of... the cheese factory was right across the bridge from where we lived, and I babysat after I got in high school... I babysat the kids that belonged there, and they were Alex Walker and... he had two little boys... he was the first cheese maker... and then, uh... Caddy Hutchens was the next one, and they had two girls... and I babysat... they were Eleanor and, uh... hmmm... I can't think of her name... but we spent time a'goin' to the cheese factory, and we could always grab a handful of curd...(chuckling)

My little sister died when she was six years old, and we had her funeral just at home, and she was buried at the Blaine Cemetery, and that was quite an event... and another thing... I think I told

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about helping my dad get the neighbor lady ready for burial, 'cause they didn't want her embalmed, and they were just gonna' bury her... she's buried at the Blaine Cemetery... I think I told that yesterday...

Student: *And what was her name?*

Gwen: Martha Gray... Martha Gray, and his name was...

Student: *Earl?*

Gwen: Uh, huh (no)... she was the mother of my very good friend, Nettie Slakis... we were friends for years...

Student: *Ok...*

Gwen: Now?

Student: *Yeah.*

Gwen: Uh... I was just talkin'.... some of the holidays that we'd celebrate together... and, which wasn't very often, but my dad's brother, Forest Ayer, lived at Beaver, and he was a... I think he was a county commissioner... but he was on the high school board when I started to high school... and he had, uh... two sons and one daughter, and they were Sewell and Harold and Thelma... and they are all gone... although I couldn't prove that Thelma was... isn't still living, I don't know where she is... and, uh...

When I started high school... I started the year the Nestucca High School was built... in 1929... there was about, I think, about 30 in our class... there was quite a few from up the river that came, and my dad drove the school bus... it was the first school bus that they had at Nestucca, 'er they had... I think they had three, but it's the first year we'd had a bus... the kids from that time went to, uh... well, some of... I started to the Cloverdale Grade School for the first three months, and then they had the high school open in January... but my sister went to Tillamook to high school, for one or two years...

Student: *Why was that?*

Gwen: Because she went and boarded with somebody in there... there was no transportation at that time... that was Alma...

I guess the tragedy was my sister's death... I was married and had a baby before my father died in 1937, which was tragic, too, so my mother took over as postmaster at that time, and it was....

My sister Frances was the only one at home then, and she went down and worked at the Cloverdale post... in the Cloverdale... no... she worked for the gal... Viva Owens, that was postmaster at Cloverdale at that time... hmmm...

Now this school business... I got ahead of it, didn't I? Some of teachers... the first teacher I had lived up across from where the Kostic place is now, and her name was Edison... Kathryn Edison... she was the first grade teacher... and, uh... Tom Large was the second grade teacher, 'er one of those... I don't remember each one... and... well, I don't think of others right now... one of 'em was married to the...

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Hmmm... lessons I liked... I was pretty good at math and I liked that and I took trigonometry and two years of Latin, and I don't know what good it did (laughing)... and I was in the glee club, but I didn't do sports... I didn't do basketball... we didn't do... weren't able to take typing at that time... you could just take it at one time... I took home economics, I think, every year, and enjoyed that... and I guess I told... my dad drove the bus, so of course I rode the bus to Cloverdale... I got to go to quite a few of the games because of him driving the bus... I don't know anything in particular I learned from my dad and my mom... just to be about like I am (laughing)... ok...

This question is why was it good to grow up and live in south Tillamook County for the years that you did... I'm very thankful for those years, and for the many years after that that our children got to go to the schools in this county... I think they were wonderful, and our children turned out very well educated, I think...

I don't think it was difficult... we had a lot of tough times after... I was... well, I guess... I was, uh... I graduated in, uh... what... '33, and we had a really nice graduation... and then I got married in 1934 and married Harold Leroy Jones... he had came there in 1930, at the time, to what was known then as the... hmm... the farm right below where we had lived, anyway... it was a mile below Blaine... while we was driving... riding in the bus by, we saw that there were two young men that moved into this house, uh... on the Magarell place is what it used to be known as, and anybody's that's lived here too long probably remembers that... but, anyway, uh... when we found out these two guys were moving in... there was two men in there... 'er, two boys and their dad, and their dad was George Jones, and uh, Harold Leroy, 'er, Bud as everybody knows him, and Alfred Jones moved in, and of course we were excited about the boys moving in...

I was... oh, what was I? I was a sophomore that year, I guess... and I told them that I'd take the youngest one... the other kids on the bus... we had big discussions about that... ended up that I got him... we were married in Tillamook... went to the minister's home, and the minister worked in the Piggly Wiggly store in Tillamook... in the butcher shop, so we always said we was married by the butcher, and I... let's see... he was, uh... hmm... I can't remember his name... anyway... we met... we had lots of fun... they... their family didn't believe in dancing, but they had lots of parties and we played games and, uh... Skip to my Lou, and all kinds of round games... we had a really good time, and we went together for four years, and were married in, uh... I think I made a mistake on that...

Student: *When Bud was born and how you eventually met?*

Gwen: Oh... yeah... Bud was born in the country out of Monmouth, and in April 17th, 1912, and his mother and father lived on a farm, and he had just one brother, Alfred... his mother was a... she was the secretary of the farmer's union and she did a lot of traveling around, and he got to go to places... one of the things that he remembered about going to The Dalles, and they had this big convention and they had dinner, and uh... they had olives on the table, and not very many of 'em liked olives, so they passed 'em down to him... he was just a little kid... and he threw 'em under the table... that was the story that we heard about olives every time we'd see them...

Student: *How did you eventually meet?*

Gwen: And he went to high school... 'er, grade school out in the country, and I got... later in years I met two of his teachers, but, and then he went to high school in Monmouth, but he didn't graduate... he was... he finished his junior year, and then uh... that's when his mother passed away... and they

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decided that they were gonna' do somethin' else... so they got together and came over to Tillamook County, and they went to a... saw a real estate agent out of Hebo and he took 'em down and showed 'em... at, uh... Otis... there was some property down there and they looked at that, and it was kinda' Indian territory, and he always told our kids, if they'd a settled down there, why, they'd a probably been Indian kids (chuckling)... he always had some good ideas... anyway, when they settled on that farm, well... I don't know exactly how we did meet... must have been at some of the parties or somethin' or rather... but anyway, we went together all the years... all the rest of the years that I was in high school... three years... and he'd go up to take me to the ball games and stuff... but it was... you know... in the '30's they didn't have much money then, and they had a farm and he worked out... he had a big team of horses and he did horse logging along the... around the country a lot of the time, and we rented the house at... it was the little Johnson house, which is up near where Daggetts live... the ones down at... the one down under the hill... and that was our honeymoon house... oh, I started to tell you... when we married... oh, I did tell you about the butcher marrying us... and his wife and somebody was the... uh... what do you call it?

Student: *Witness?*

Gwen: Yeah... they were witness.. we didn't take anybody else with us, and then we went to the show in Tillamook, and when we came out we happened to meet a friend of his on the street, and he was so surprised and wanted to know who I was... anyway, then we went home, and then I think it was the next day... my dad had arranged and had a dinner for us at home, and some of the relatives... and he brought a... he got calla lillies from a lady that lived on the place right where the Cloverdale post office is, there was a house there and she had lovely calla lillies all along.. anyway, he got a big bouquet of calla lillies and then gave us a... Aladdin lamp... and seemed like there was something else, that that was... and my aunt gave me a quilt, and that was... and then we lived there in that little Johnson house for a year, and we had three cows... we paid five... I told you that about the rent, didn't I?

Student: *Uh, huh (yes)*

Gwen: Um...

Student: *You can say it again....*

Gwen: That was on the other one, though...

Student: *Yeah...*

Gwen: Ok... we lived in this Johnson house and they charged \$5 a month rent, but there was a few things that needed done around there that we were supposed to do to pay for the rent, and I don't know if we ever got 'em done or not, but anyway... we lived there for a year, and then moved up to the farm where... it's just this side of Blaine.. the first farm this side of Blaine, and it's a big old house that Alton Bruce had built, I think... it had wide boards in the walls... that's what the walls were just about foot wide boards all over, and after I'd been there a while, why, I decided that needed to be done somethin', so I took gunny sacks and ripped 'em apart and tacked 'em on the wall, and then put wall paper up... that was my first wallpapering job... it lasted quite a while, and then we had our first child there and that was Herbert, and he was born at home and the doctor came out and he had to stay

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overnight with us... my dad came over and they didn't know what they was gonna' do with me... finally the doctor told my husband he would have to choose whether to save me or the baby... as it turned out, we beat 'em... we both lived, so...

Student: *And when was he born?*

Gwen: In December, 29th, 1935. After that... Bud started hauling milk then to Sheridan... he had a truck, and he hauled the milk for different ones to Sheridan, because... oh, I don't know... they were havin' cheese factory trouble, I think, was the reason then... seemed to be havin' that a lot of time... and he did that for a while... you could always get ice cream and, uh... if Bud would take a day off, his brother would drive, and he'd take the Benfield twins... which were Dorothea's brothers... with him, and they'd go to the cheese factory... go out there and they could have all the ice cream they wanted... so they'd really... course, we'd have to pay for it... so that was funny...

And then another thing that was funny on that trip... he... somebody gave him a hound dog with a bunch of pups one day, and he brought 'em home on the truck, and he stopped out around Ground Ronde somewhere, and there was the Kautz family that was related to a guy that used to live on the place where they had lived, and the woman was there and she was pretty good sized woman, and anyway... oh, she wanted one of those pups... he gave her one of the pups and she took it and plopped it down the front of her bosom... that was a story that he reminded us of a lot of times... (laughing)...

Anyway... then he started logging again... he had used the horse logging around for the neighbors, but then he started in the woods... in the big woods, they called it... and it was, uh... after the Tillamook Burn... so he logged up there, and there was a couple of guys with trailers... we let 'em move on our place, and they logged up in the Burn... they were from Washington... and I don't know... they lived there two or three years, I guess. What else can I think about? Well, we moved from that place... I don't know how... well, '38 we moved down on the place where we had originally lived... my folks had came to from Tillamook... in the same house... we moved down there... that was after my dad had died, and I helped my mom with the post office for a while, and then Alma and Jack moved in with her... they had been livin' on that place, and we moved down there, and Alice... our daughter, Mary Alice was born on October the 7th... but she was born in a hospital in Tillamook...

Student: *What year?*

Gwen: In 1938. October 7th, 1938. So we had a boy and a girl then. And, uh... and then in '39... May, 1939, we had a baby boy, and he was born in the hospital. But only in the hallway, because the doctor didn't get there soon enough (laughing)...

Student: *And what was his name?*

Gwen: It was William Earl, and he was called Billy, and he lived not quite two years and had spinal meningitis, and he's buried in the Blaine Cemetery. And then the next year, Alice was three years old... she had appendicitis, and she was in the hospital for a while... Bud was working at, uh... down in Neskowin with Maynard Ault at that time, logging... and, uh... three months later she had a

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bowel obstruction and we about lost her. They didn't know what was the matter with her... we took her to the hospital, and she was there, and finally they sent us to Portland, and we stopped one time and got her a drink of water or somethin'... anyway... she wasn't very much with it when we got to the hospital, and the doctor told us, well, they'll see ya' when you get there... well, the doctor he sent us to wasn't right there... another doctor, Doctor Hand, came and they took her in and had surgery... well, they had to give her... uh... give her somethin' to build her up, because she was dehydrated and three o'clock in the morning they did surgery... they said she wouldn't have lived until morning... and we had a little fight with the hospital people, because they weren't gonna' let me stay with her, and I wasn't gonna' leave her there, and my husband finally told 'em that we'd take her some place else, so they brought a bed in for me to sleep in... they were very nice to us after that (laughing)... came and stayed with her so I could go eat and everything... and she got over that and she's been pretty well since... I knew she had pneumonia once... I had to go to the hospital... otherwise... there was a lot that went on in those years, but I don't remember a lot of stuff right now...

In, uh... 1942... Frances was born, and... let's see... I don't know... I guess it's just mostly usual things went on 'til she was about six, and then she... we found out that she had scoliosis... her back was bigger on one side than the other... we were at Mount... up at Mount Hebo Lake one day for a picnic, and my mom was with us, and she put her arm around Frances one day and she says, "Well, what's the matter with your back?" and noticed that one side was larger than the other... and we had never, you know... really noticed it... and it wasn't much noticeable at that time, but then we started doctoring, and she had several back surgeries, and did lots of doctoring... one of the first surgery, we had her on a couch... put her in the back of the station wagon and took her to the beach and took her every place we went... she was in a cast, and that was when she was just a kid, and, uh... hmmm...

We didn't... military... we did belong to the grange, and we went to the grange quite a bit and took part in there... and we always had church in the school house at Blaine, until the Mennonites came in the community and they built the church there on the road up to the cemetery, and I forget what year that was... I went to that church, then, as long as they had it, and then still I'll go when I'm here... (laughing)... Herbert went to, uh... well, all the kids went to high school...

I oughta' tell about the other kids first, hadn't I? In 1953, Rod was born, and he was quite unexpected for a while... he was supposed to have been a tumor when I first realized it (laughing)... but anyway, Doctor Brown wouldn't... he says we're not gonna' do anything for a while, so he was always... Mildred Brand worked in the doctor's office at that time, and she always called him her "tumor baby" ... so... and he was a premie... he weighed four pounds and somethin', and... was a little problem there, but he grew up to be quite a young man... he's had quite a life since (laughing)... and then three years after he was born, we had Beverly... and in between these times we did a lot of hunting and camping and trips like that, but I can't think of anything... Beverly was born... did I tell you the date on Rodney?

Student: *Um... no...*

Gwen: Rodney was born on September 27th... golly, should I say the 27th? We went back for his fiftieth birthday this year, anyway (laughing)...

Student: *And when was Beverly born?*

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Gwen: She was born in '56... and she was normal... she was about the only kid that I knew when I was having.... (first side of tape ends).... Beverly Lynn Jones was born July 26th, 1956... and did the usual things, I guess (more laughing)... anyway, we started driving the school bus in I don't know when it was... it must have been in the 50's... most of the kids were riding the bus...

Herbert had polio in 1956... was in isolation in a hospital in Portland for a while... he came out and didn't have too many things... he's had back trouble all his life since, but then... but he recently went to Mexico and they're havin' a time down there... we did lots of trips to Eastern Oregon... Bud had a blind cousin up there, and he had a farm and he raised horses and he liked to go to hunting... 'er, auction sales, and we spent a lot of time at his place... what's that... I don't know where to go with this... at, uh...

During the war they had a little building at the school yard at Blaine and they had a lookout for the airplanes that had to be reported that went over, and I took part in that... all the time that it was there... we didn't have very many things that we had to report, but then we were always there... and then, let's see... what was another thing? We had the Fireman's Auxiliary, and I belonged to that... and we made quilts for people that had fires, and different things like that... seemed like there's somethin' else I thought of as... I belonged to the PTA at the high school, and we had the Smorgasbord and reunions every year that was a big occasion... hmmm...

I remember the morning... we knew about it... we could see the smoke a comin' up over the hill from the Tillamook Burn and we were told that we might have to move out, and I was engaged at that time and I had my cedar chest, so I packed my cedar chest... that's the main thing I remember... and then, of course, a lot of forest was goin' on at that time... I think it was during the fair, too... we used to swim in the swimmin' hole right there at Blaine... we did lots of that, and then I see kids are still doing it...

Kids started gettin' married... Bev got... no... Alice and Ralph got married in, uh... August in... what year?... hmmm... '59, I think, and they had three children... Margaret and Diane and Jim... and, uh... then Herbert got married the next year... and they had... the gal he married... uh, what's her name? Hmmm... anyway, she had two boys, and uh... and they had Corinne, and they were divorced and he's now married to Barbara... Spangle, was her name... and she had two boys... Frances has never married, and uh... Rod married a gal that he'd gone to high school with at Nestucca... Verlet Payne... they had Rodney and Mary, and then they were divorced, and he had, uh... he got married again to Kim... oh, gosh, I don't know her last name... and they had Camille and Darwin, and Kim died in 19... uh, no, in 2003 in January, so he has the two kids and he lives in Kentucky and has a ... what is it? A service station? I don't know what they call... repair shop, I guess... thought I had this down...

Student: *What about Bev?*

Gwen: Bev... uh, well, now... let's see... I'll go back... oh, Bev... Bev was married for five years, and she isn't married now... she lives at Washougal, Washington... Rod lives in Lexington, Kentucky... Alice and Ralph live in Estacada, Oregon... and Herbert, I said, they just are in Mexico now, for the summer... Alice is supervisor at Mt. Hood Hospital, and has been for about thirty years, probably; Frances works as a occupational therapist at... hmmm... and Beverly has been workin' the last ten years with the organ donor program, but she's now back to the hospital that she worked in ten years before... what in the heck is the name of it? I can't think of what it is... oh, Bev works at... she's back

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at Emmanuel Hospital now... she worked there ten years before she was with the donor program... it's been real interesting... I've spent a lot of time with them... her, while she worked with the donor program... had gone to a lot of their get togethers and met several of the donor families and the recipients and, uh... it's just been really wonderful... they make quilts, and we got to go to the last... their last quilt was the sixth one that they've made, and they take 'em around and give their, uh... speeches, tell about their donor program and have that to show with different members of the families... donor families and recipient families... they make a block for the person... to honor that person... and they're just wonderful... uh... out of... what's it called? I can't think of the names... we were going to take a short cut over to... I can't think of the names of places... but anyway, the oil line on the pickup broke, and so we were stuck, and it was in the evening, and we got this... thought we were going through this place, well, there was snow on the road about two feet high, so we decided that we couldn't do that, but we did get turned around and that stopped, so we spent the night in the pickup... in the front seat of the pickup... we did have... oh, I don't know... some coats or somethin'... a little bit... we didn't freeze... and we could run the pickup every now and then to stop it, but anyway seven o'clock in the morning, I says, well, I'm gonna' go... well, we're fifteen miles from any place at all, and so I started walkin' down this road... Sumpter was where... we were fifteen miles from Sumpter (laughing)... and I started walkin' down the road, and I got... I said probably ten miles... but, it was... afterwards it was probably about four miles, and way down in a canyon I saw a camp... there was a couple of rigs and I heard wood being cut, and I started yelling (laughing)... and I hollered and hollered... finally I got somebody's attention and they came to where they could hear me a little better... it was way down... and I said we've broke down up here, can I get somebody to help, and they hollered back and they said they'd be out... they were gettin' ready to leave... they'd been gold mining they'd decided to take a load of wood with 'em for they went, and they were from... one of 'em was from Oregon City... and uh... anyway, they came up and they took back up to where we were, and one of 'em was a mechanic, and so they rigged it up so it would work, but of course we didn't have oil, the oil had all gone out.. so we got down to the main road, then, and we parked there and they went to Sumpter and got us oil, and came back and put it in and got to goin' ok... and they left and we got down to... they was a park out of... I cannot think of the names of these places that I need to think about... but anyway, it was several miles from a town... but, uh... they was some people came and were havin' a picnic there and I asked a guy to take me to... back to the place where there was a phone... it wasn't very far back up the road, so he took me and I called and got a tow rig and they came and got us and they hauled us down there, and there was a little restaurant just a... not far from there, so he told us, go over there and wait while he fixed it, so he got the thing a goin' again... and I had told my granddaughter, you know, that we would be home the night before... she lives at Hermiston, and, uh... so I thought well, you know, they'd really be worried about us, and, uh... so I called her up from there and told her where we were and that we'd be home in a couple hours or so, but that was sure some trip. Come to find out, Kay Julian was up there at that time... at Sumpter... that's where she was livin'... (laughing)... I saw her at a high school reunion after that, and... well, I really...

Student: Ok...

Gwen: Well, another thing that I had done while I was... was after my dad had been on the election board for several years, and then my brother-in-law filled his place when he passed away, and then after he was gone I took his place, and we had a good time... I can't really remember who else was on it at that time, though... it was at the Blaine school house, and we always had... was always interesting when everybody came to vote, you could visit with 'em, and... and I don't know how many

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years that I was on there... then we'd count the votes afterwards and have to haul the boxes in to the clerk's office in to Tillamook about midnight, and so that was quite an occasion, too.

That was all I... oh, and when Sisco's house burned, uh, one morning about four o'clock... we got the call... well, how we knew about the fires when we first joined the department, we just had the telephones and we were... one of us would call four or five people and somebody else would call us... see, Bud was on the fire department for thirty-five years... he joined when they first joined here... and, uh... it was Sisco's house and they lived over to Hemlock... and we got over there and it... they saved, I think, the washing machine or somethin'... it was out on the porch... not very much... anyway, there was several children... I should know how many, but... by that... uh... by that night we had a place for them to live, clothes for the kids to go to school the next morning, and food and we moved 'em into a house... I packed one of those kids up to bed that night, and, uh... that was just amazing, 'cause I... it was the kids that knew about the fire and woke the parents up, and... it was really somethin'... they'd been friends, you know, of course... I'd hauled Gloria and her brother to school and, uh... they did very well after that, anyway... we... the next day after that we went to, uh... well, it was Thanksgiving time, I think... no, that was a different thing... that was different...

But anyway we gathered around for stuff for them for beds and stuff that night, and I thought that was just about the most amazing thing that... you know, it wasn't just me, it was the fire department and the neighbors, and... that was great.

Another time when we came home from Thanksgiving... we came over... out of Forest Grove, there was a house on fire... 'er, we saw smoke and we drove up the hill to it, and there was a couple of little kids naked on the davenport asleep and there was a kid about sixteen that came out and Bud asked him if they had some trouble... no, he said, everything was okay, and he... Bud says, "Well, I'm a fireman, do you mind if I go upstairs?" And he went up and here the bed was on fire... the bedding... a light bulb had fell over on there and got the mattress... well, they had plastic over the windows, and he threw the mattress out the window, 'er poked it out there... I finally got up there just about the time... 'cause I wanted to see what was goin' on... and, uh... the roof on the porch then caught fire from the mattress, so he had the kid go get a bucket of water, and he brought that up and put it out... the mattress went on the ground, it was still burning, and, uh... when we got down there, well, Bud burned his hands on the mattress and so we saw that it was out, so we left, and just as we were leaving the fire department came, and that was all that... there was no grown ups there... just the kids... and, uh... the mother had gone to town or somethin'... I don't know... she had a car... they came home just as we were leaving... and, uh... anyway, we went and stopped and got some stuff to put on his hands and then went on home, but we went back the next day... I think it was maybe... it wasn't the next day, but we had gathered up stuff and took back there... we took a mattress and Vi Borba Barnett gave... I think she gave us a mattress, and we had a station wagon just packed with stuff to take over there, and nobody was home that day when we got there, so we went down to the school and asked if the kid could go with us and help unload it, and they let him go... and we were just leavin' when the woman came home from... and they had a whole bunch of milk jugs out there... they hadn't been there long enough to get on welfare or somethin'... I forget what other state they were from, but they was several kids... and... so that was quite an excursion...

(tape ends)

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